A

PATRIOTIC DISCOURSE,

DELIVERED BY THE

REV. JOSHUA LAWRENCE,

At the Old Church in Tarborough, North-Carolina, on Sunday, the

4TH OF JULY, 1830.

XIX Chapter of Acts, 25th verse: "Whom he called together, with workmen of like occupation, and said sirs, ye know by this craft we have our wealth."

My audience: this day is the memorable fourth of July....a day long to be remembered by the American people....the day when the citizens of young America had the hardihood and patriotism, in the face of the sun and of British armies, to declare they owed no allegiance to the King of Great Britain....the day when the nerves of the hearts of our ancestors were strong and unyielding to British oppression, though they knew they must stake their all, their fortunes and their lives, in opposition to British cruelty; yet their ardor and courage failed them not, but proclaimed to the world that America should be free and independent of all Kings and foreign States whatever, and make her own laws, or their lives should be a sacrifice to the cause of liberty. And that God, who hates robbery, cruelty, and tyranny, in nations as well as individuals, prospered their cause and gave success to their arms, to the joy and glory of America. And we are this day, my audience, sitting under our vines and fig trees and none to make us afraid, as the effect of that patriotic blood that stained roads, fields, and decks of ships, fifty years ago, from the feet and bosoms of our suffering forefathers. I would then this day, my respectable audience, remind you that the price of this inestimable jewel, civil and religious liberty, was the price of blood...the blood of long forgotten fathers, who purchased this jewel for us, their children. Then for heaven's and your children's sake, don't sell it for liquor nor barter it with money-hunting designing priests. Remember, also, that civil and religious liberty must live and die together; for hand in hand they came to us out of the revolutionary struggle....and I would further remind you that nothing but blood and treasure can perpetuate liberty to your children; therefore, be watchful, be jealous at the first attempt made to attack or take this prize from your children, and rise like one man, and if needs be, transmit it to them at the first cost. And as we all enjoy this blessing in common, every man should act his part and put his shoulder to the wheel to perpetuate this blessing against designing usurping tyrants, whether kings or priests. And as the wise man said there is a time for all things, so, since the establishing of independence fifty years ago, much blood and treasure have been lost by the sons of liberty to maintain it, during the space it has been enjoyed by us. The American statesmen have not been idle, in thought, word, pen and service to vie with their foreign opponents; our soldiers have come forward to act their part by land and sea, and have mingled their warm crimson fluid with their enemies at the mouths of cannon and the points of bayonets; nor are our officers less, but equally or more praiseworthy, because of the action of both body and mind in opposition to their opponents in the field and on the sea. And what shall I say of old ANDREW, who taught the generals of European pride, not to dare snatch at the pole of American liberty, for while in the attempt he plucked their laurels and now wears them in his crown. Thus from the President to the soldier and

the sailor, they have acted a noble, a bloody and an honorable part to support the Declaration of Independence proclaimed on this memorable day by our fathers.

But, my audience, where is the poor priest all this fifty years? While these noble patriots have been struggling through blood and carnage, and political services to their country, to defend and perpetuate civil liberty to themselves and children, in comparison of whose services gold is but as sand, they, the priests, are aloof from war and from the halls of legislation by the laws of their country. Why, are they drones in the American hive? No, my audience, I only view them as held in reserve, and I now consider the time come, yea fully come, for them to take the field in defence of religious liberty, at the risk of life and blood; then, oh, ye idle, independent priests, gird on armor, helmet, shield, and sword, and come forth to the battle of religious independence against usurping tyrannical priests, for the rights of conscience, dearer than life itself, are invaded; there are laurels for you, and the liberty of conscience of your children is at stake. I say arise, and fight with tongue and pen the cause of religious liberty, for when once gone, perhaps, as in other nations, gone for ever. For, my hearers, there are many apparent facts, that show to me that designing priests are endeavoring to bind us with the bands of spiritual tyranny, and rivet the broken chains of British priestcraft on us and our children, and become our conscience keepers and purse plunderers as in days of yore, any thing said to the contrary notwithstanding. As one who has enjoyed the sweets of liberty for fifty years, I come forward and stand forth to help my fellow citizens in this common cause of liberty, nor will I yield it for less than cost; and therefore, now call your attention to my text, upon which I shall make some remarks, to show you how to judge rightly in this matter.

On a strict examination of history, it will be found that all religions, whether heathen, pagan, Mahometan, or Christian, are founded on a belief of certain tales, whether true or false; with an injunction of certain ceremonies or practices to be performed by the believers of such tales. Then, to judge of the truth of any religion whatever, we have only to judge of the tale that is told and the veracity of the teller, and the evidences corroborating the whole circumstance; and whether self-interest, for fame, honor, or wealth, is connected to the cause, as the main spring of action to the practices that such religion enjoins on its votaries.

As all sects profess that their religion is from above, like the Ephesians.... what man is there that knoweth not (said the Town Clerk) how the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Jupiter...mark that....fell down from Jupiter. But where is the evidence on which this priestly tale is founded, by which Demetrius and his crafty gang got their wealth by making shrines for the goddess Diana? Mark this heathen religion, wealth to the craft men; therefore, all could cry out for the space of two hours, great is Diana of the Ephesians...she came down from Jupiter. And no doubt the priests, as well as other craft men, were foremost and loudest in the mighty cry, until the whole city was in confusion, because their several crafts were in danger.

I shall now endeavor merely to sketch out, my hearers, in a few particulars, five different religions that have been established in the world; and in a short way examine some evidences attending them, to shew the difference between a true and a false religion.

The first religion that I shall mention is the religion of public opinion, no matter what may be its creed, form, or ceremonies, nor whether it be heathen, pagan, or Christian, so that public opinion in any nation gives it currency. For it is but too well known that public opinion governs the world, and not individual...and though oftener wrong than right, yet because of that force which cus-

tom and example have upon the human mind, there is an itching disposition in man to conform and be like other people, and travel the road of public opinion in fashions of all kinds, religion not excepted. Hence, in almost every nation we find a different religion, propagated, believed, and practiced, and thought by its votaries to be the best in the world; because the religion of antiquity and of the nation, and the sect of which they are members, from the idolator to the Christian, without examining by some proper standard impartially for themselves, the evidences on which such religion is predicated. Thus we find Abraham's family served other gods, beyond the river Euphrates; and that Rachel loved her father Laban's idol-gods enough to steal them. The Egyptians worshipped a pied bull ..in imitation of which Aaron made the golden calf, and Jeroboam the two golden calves at Dan and Bethel; with a great variety of gods mentioned in scripture as well as in heathen mythology, such as Baal, Bell, Baalpeor, Baalberith, Bemphim, Nergal, Nibhas, Tamas, Sheshach, Nebo, Nisroch, Meni, Mahuzzam, Ashtoroth, Succothbenoth, and Diana, &c...and in fine, their modes of worship and ceremonies were various as well as their gods; which you can know by comparing the worship of Moloch, Dagon, and the Babylonish eating god; while they also worshipped deceased kings, animals, plants, stones, sun, moon, stars, and a thousand other imaginary gods, according to their fancy. Now all these may be wrong, but all cannot be right; and although the nations differed in names of gods, modes of worship, rites and ceremonies, yet public opinion predominated every where, and led captive the duped multitude from generation to generation. And although they differed as above observed, yet in two things they differed not; and these were, each sect had its priests, and the priests of all sects made a craft of it. Witness Micah's idol priest, who when the Dannites promised him greater wages than Micah gave him, stole his gods and away with them for a more plump craft from the Dannites...like some of our modern priests, from town to town to find a more fat craft. We may add to this religion of public opinion that of Simon Magus, the priest of Jupiter, conjurers, soothsayers, diviners, astrologers, necromancers, charmers, spellers, fortunetellers, &c. nearly all of which rest on some novel, mysterious, priestly tale, or false shews and say soes, of those that make a craft of their art on duped devotees. And thus every stratagem of hypocrisy and duplicity, is made and has been made use of by priests and others to impose on the strong, the weak, and the credulous, to rivet their crafts to get their wealth like Demetrius by shrine making; so that we see all hands in false religions make a craft of it, from the priest to the lying fortuneteller.

Now I ask, by what means have all these different religions and cheating arts been established in the different nations of the earth? I answer, I believe that man was made and is born a religious being, and that he cannot reconcile himself to live and die without a ground of hope, whether true or false, to satisfy his conscience before the judge of futurity....if a true hope it is attended with fears; if a false hope, if it is the best he knows, it is to him as if true, because he knows no better ground of hope, and therefore, it answers his present purpose in some good degree. Secondly, I think that it is impossible for a nation to exist, and government to be administered in it, without some form of religion as a band to tie society together; and the best religion man knows he takes hold of, for refuge to his trembling soul. Thirdly, because by the fall of the first man he lost his God and the true knowledge of him, and become vain in his imagination, and his foolish heart darkened; and therefore he has been so easily imposed on, and worshipped and served the creature more than the creator. The making of idol gods became a great craft of wealth, the attendant priests on these deaf and dumb deities made a great craft of oracles, &c....in a word, the whole worship of

idols was a craft of gain to the various officers of the craft, from the idol maker to the shrine seller. Jeroboam had his craft for sitting up the two golden calves at Dan and Bethel; and that was, to maintain his crown and get his wealth out of the ten tribes of Israel. Nebuchadnezzar, Balaam, Judas, Simon Magus, Gahariah, Micah's priest, and all witches, conjurers, fortune tellers, &c. have their several forms of ceremony and religious cheats as a craft for gain; and so all of the same craft may be expected to be called together, lest the temple of Diana should be despised and her magnificence destroyed whom all Asia and the world worshippeth. What a pity that a goddess of such antiquity and high veneration, should, by such pestilent fellows as Paul and his comrades, be set at naught ....ye craft men come together....ye men of Israel help....ye Congressmen help, our craft is in danger.

If we examine the Bible for marks of a false prophet, teacher, or preacher, we shall find these as unchangeable marks given throughout the scriptures...gain by godliness....greedy of filthy lucre...the fleece and not the flock...or, craft by their religion; and every false religion introduced into the world, has these marks of craft engraven on it, from the idolatrous to the metamorphosed Christian religion; and is made by its priests a craft of gain, honor and applause, except the religion of Jesus Christ, which is not a religion of craft. Witness, Simon Magus, trying to buy the Holy Ghost of Peter, to form a new craft, after the preaching of the apostles had broken his former craft on the people. Witness, the damsel by the craft of soothsaying brought her master much gain. Witness, the craft of Jezebel's prophets, and the prophets of Baal, always prophecying good things concerning wicked Ahab, that they might have the favor of the king and fare sumptuously at Queen Jezebel's table. Witness, Balaam, under the craft of sacrifices, divining to find out the mind of God to curse Israel to get Balaak's promised silver and greatness. Time would fail me to tell of the craft of Judas the purse bearer; of Gahariah, who made a craft of the miracle of his master; of those that followed for the loaves and fishes; and all the deceptive crafts, fortunetelling not excepted, for gain or wealth.

I shall then say, that all false religions, of whatever sort, that have been introduced into the world, have been founded on some mysterious, novel, deceiving tales, under the garb of virtue, and by certain false shews without evidence, founded on facts of sense or miracles done in the presence of eye and ear witnesses to confirm the truth thereof, have this mark, craft....from Sechem, who would be circumcised to get Dinah and Jacob's cattle, up to the missionary beggar; and have only been religion in masquerade, imposed on the credulous, and gained strength in process of time by the cunning, art, and stratagem of priests, and established itself by public opinion on succeeding generations. And there is as much danger in opposing public opinion, however vague and unscriptural, in the country where such public opinion reigns, as there was for Paul to say a word against the goddess Diana; for one reason only, the priests' craft is in danger, therefore such a tumultuous uproar is made on the man that dares question public opinion.

It is easy to see, by referring to the scriptures, that this whole train of idolatrous worship and religious cheats, was and is copied from the Old and New Testament...from God's having sent prophets into the world, diviners and fortunetellers have arisen; the oracles of idol temples are in imitation of consulting the Jewish high priest with his urim and thummim; and the craft of priests for gain, from the tithes paid to the Jewish high priest...and from the New Testament, the laborer is worthy of his meat, ministers in this day set up their claim as a right to their craft of gain by their preaching. But it is plain, by referring to the scriptures, that all these religious crafts are of the devil, transformed

after the fashion of God's ways, to deceive and ruin the souls of men; for the devil has his temples, his oracles, his priests, his sacrifices, his rites, his ceremonies, his baptism, his altars, his saints, his prophets, his transformed ministers, as well as God. But there is as wide a difference between the two as God and the devil, or heaven and hell, or this world and that which is to come; and this difference lies all in this one mark....craft....or running greedily after the error of Balaam, or supposing gain is godliness...from such turn away, for they are the ministers of the devil. This is a mere sketch of crafts of times of old, in various forms by priests and others under the sanctity of religion imposed, enforced, engrafted and maintained by cheat, fraud, guile, and hypocrisy; and fastened by public opinion, custom, example and teaching, on rising youth from age to age to revere the holy sanctified priest and the religion of their ancestors, though they be of the devil's making and have been blood suckers on earth. And craft men love to have it so, or else they lose their gain and Demetrius his wealth by shrine making. Hence all of the same craft may be expected to unite against gospel truth, which if admitted, overturns to the very foundation all priest craft; then no wonder to hear the craft men roar out from pulpit and press, you ought not to oppose us, our cause is God's cause; you ought to throw your money into the treasury of the Lord, to help the Lord convert the heathen; you are an infidel, yea a devil if you don't....when the cause is men's cause, to say the least of it; and the treasury, the treasury of craft men, to get money out of the pockets of honest men, children, widows, negroes, and Indians, to enable craft men to live in idleness and luxury on the labor of others. But, said Paul to his brethren, these hands have administered to my necessities, and I have shewed you all things how that so laboring you ought to support the weak, &c. Thus I must leave you, my hearers, to compare this mere sketch of crafts of ancient times with the crafts of this day, if any can be found.

The second religion of crafts that I shall notice, is a religion established by the laws of men....by the laws of kings, states, or nations...so as to compel men under certain penalties, whether agreeable to their conscience or not, to believe and practice certain articles of faith, swear to support them, or be compelled by law to conform to a national form of worship, sacred rites, ceremonies, dues to priests, &c. Whether the majority or the minority have given their sanction to such a law, matters not; for to prove the validity of such a law of pains and penalties to make men conform to modes of worship, or be of one mind in matters of religion, is not to be found in the New Testament, and is the resort of craft men to force their wealth from the pockets of their neighbors. Hence law religion is one of the priests' craft for wealth; by them it has been perpetuated in the nations of the earth with cruelty, and is a bloody craft....yea, the blood of saints has never yet satisfied the greedy stomachs of these sort of blood hounds.

The first established religion that strikes my mind, is that of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, who commanded all men under the pain and penalty of the fiery furnace, to fall down and worship the idol image he had set up in the plains of Dura. But there were three men in his kingdom, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, whose consciences would not let them do so, and who thought different from the king and the crowd of his subjects; though I am persuaded he had not more loyal subjects in his kingdom, because one conscience subject is worth five purse subjects. Now is there any man in the world that will say this law was right? Will any man say that the king and his counsellors should dictate to the consciences of others? Will any man say the king shall prescribe the duty of the creature to his creator, and be judge of other men's consciences in matters of religion? Will any say that a man is to pay a fine, be imprisoned,

have his goods confiscated, or be burned in a fiery furnace, because he cannot see out of other peoples' eyes, or believe like others? How foolish, absurd and vain. The case of Daniel is one of the same sort...under penalty of the lions' den. If such men there be that will say yes, the whole narrative proves, by these examples of God's interference for the deliverance of the oppressed consciences of his servants, that such a law established religion is wrong and contrary to the divine mind, unless it can be proved that the magistrate is a competent judge of religious truth....an opinion falsified in these circumstances, and abundantly falsified by the rulers of all nations who have undertaken to establish law religion....by so doing they miss the mark, and establish a craft, and support hypocrisy, robbery, and bloody cruelty on the earth; and shew us very plainly that a man may oppose, and has a right to oppose, all law religion in matters of conscience, and that God is on his side. But perhaps you will say they had a right to oppose, because the king required them to be idolators. I answer, that kings or states establishing any set form of worship, or prescribing limitation of conscience, is just the same; and that the conscientious may resist the authority of kings or states with a good conscience, and in so doing fight the battle of God and contend for the inalienable rights of freemen against such usurpers of the dominion of God. For all statesmen who aid and abet in the establishment of any law religion are enemies of God and to the rights of freemen; and are laying claim to the sovereignty of God, to dictate for God what shall be the homage paid by the creature to his creator; and thus make their own conscience the standard of others, and set up an image of their own making and compel others by law to bow thereto under pains and penalties always severe. Oh, cursed fraud! since all true religion must be a voluntary offering of the heart to the supreme creator of the universe, to whom man is first bound in duty as his conscience may dictate to him. Then law religion only supports a craft of priests and tyrants on earth for gain, and the blood that has been shed under such laws has been innocent blood, and the law makers of religious establishments are wilful and premeditated murderers, and are accessaries before the fact to the murders committed. For if the fiery furnace had burnt those three men, and the lions had eaten Daniel, would you not have said, innocent blood shed by usurped power and unlawful right; for which I say, the king. by the law of justice and the rights and equality of man, should have died as a murderer. I might name many more of the same sort, but must pass them by.

We shall next notice the established Christian religion....turned from its simplicity and virgin beauty into a craft. For three hundeed years, the religion of Jesus Christ stood and flourished without the aid of schools, laws, or help of kings or magistrates...and in spite of them all, and in opposition to all, bore down all before it, commending itself to the consciences of men during this time, as not being a craft of priests. But in the year 323, Constantine undertook to protect and defend the religion of Jesus Christ, and established it by law; enjoining the Christian sabbath, salaries to ministers, &c. And now we might suppose this established law religion was right and could do no harm....for what harm could there be in compelling men to do right by the laws of government. I say this law was wrong....first, because there is not, nor can be, such a thing as true religion by compulsion; but it is voluntary and of free will. Secondly, true religion is the gift of God; and therefore, no man is to suffer in his person or goods, because he does not nor cannot possess this gift; hence law religion is altogether founded in self righteousness and craft. Thirdly, because the religion of Jesus Christ disavows in every page of it a dependence on the power, wisdom and wealth of this world for its support, and stood and flourished when all these opposed; and it cannot be the duty of statesmen to support that which disowns

all need of support. Fourthly, an established religion opens a door to a craft, to corrupt men and of course a corrupt ministry, and thence a corrupt doctrine, corrupt ordinances, corrupt discipline, corrupt members, and corrupt practices, &c. And hence from this one wrong step in establishing even the true religion by law, a door was opened for crafts men of many kinds; while as a judgment from God, in the first instance followed cruelty and blood, and crafts men arose by thousands, such as bishops, arch-bishops, patriarchs, exarchs, metropolitans, suffragans, popes, cardinals, monks, nuns, synods, councils, anathemas, dungeons, gibbets, flames and death....all for the glory of God and the good of the church. But take notice, there was a craft at the bottom of all these titles....and thus the true religion became a religion of crafts men, from the Pope to the monk, by weaving it with state policy, and was no longer the religion of Jesus Christ, because removed by crafts men from the pedestal on which he first set it. True religion is the greatest blessing on earth; but, when interwoven with state policy, the greatest curse and mother of cruelties. And how many times has the Pope called his craft men together, like Demetrius of old, and said sirs, you know by these our crafts we have our wealth....hence the Roman Catholic religion was a religion of crafts for gain, honor, power and state influence. Then as soon as even the true religion became established by law, it was no longer the religion of Jesus Christ, but a popish and a Demetrius priest craft. Oh, how crafty are priests to get money....lawyers live by the folly of men, physicians by the diseases of men, but crafty priests live and roll in idle luxury on the vices of ignorant men, who submit to them to be their conscience keepers and pay them for a passport to heaven, when the king's highway is free for all that may choose to walk therein.

We shall next notice the crafts of this law religion. And first the craft of titles has in part been given you above, from the Pope to the monk; of which titles of craft the New Testament has no account in it as all may see that choose to examine. Secondly, the craft of gain, like Demetrius', was the craft of selling to sinners indulgences in their lust at fixed prices by the laws of the Pope, and not by the laws of Jesus Christ; such as the following prices....for killing a father, 1 ducat 5 carlins; for the lewdness of a clerk, 36 tournois 3 ducats; for him that wants to keep a concubine, 21 tournois 5 ducats 9 carlins. Oh, devilish priest craft....and further, these indulgences could not be granted to the poor, who had no money to buy their fleshly enjoyments. This was a priest craft contrary to reason, right, modesty, decency, chastity, honor, virtue, God, scripture, peace, good breeding and good sense, yet thousands were duped by it, so that Friar Sampson sold and collected by this selling craft in Switzerland alone to the amount of 120,000 crowns; and if the like was done in all the countries over which the chief craftman presided, I shall say this was a gaining, fat craft ....as good a craft as the chieftain in missionary craft of the present day.

A third craft was to sell the pardon of past sins....and this was a gainful craft, for as much as rich sinners would find it more easy to pay their money than repent of their sins....so no doubt this was a gainful craft, like that of Demetrius, that brought much wealth to the craft men; or, like the soothsaying damsel to her master....yet the Pope, like Demetrius, fearing that a poor Luther, like Paul at Ephesus, would endanger his craft, sent his detestable pardon sellers to cry aloud in almost every country the Pope's power to forgive sinners, and thus carried on his craft like the missionaries, by runners, and like them paid for services, men of craft dividing the spoil.

A fourth craft of popish priests was to pray souls out of purgatory....they had so much for Tom, and so much for Dick, but the price always depended on the riches of the deceased or their relatives; and this brought much gain to the craft

men. But as for the poor, who had nothing to pay, or died insolvent, they might climb the wall of purgatory if they could, for no priests would help them out without money....and it is much so now with the craft of missions; the missionary will not preach to the heathen and many others, or help get these poor creatures out of hell, without money. What a likeness of getting souls out of purgatory by money, and the heathen out of hell by money....I say priest craft... my hearers, what say you?

Time would fail me to pursue the various crafts in the Romish church for titles, purse and power....be it sufficient to say, that even the establishment of the true religion by law, metamorphosed gospel ministers to state pensioners, cruel blood suckers, tyrannical craft men, and grandees on the laboring part of the community....lit up fires to roast human flesh, made weeping widows and orphans, builded prisons, confiscated goods, and covered the fields of Europe in blood. Yea, how many millions of lives law religion has sacrificed to the demon of priest craft, can only be known when God the righteous judge shall make inquisition for blood. Then let the American States beware how they meddle with the most distant species of law religion, lest they again unchain these blood hounds, craft men by trade.

We shall next notice the High Church of England, as a law established craft. This craft was founded by the amorous Henry VIII. of England, about the year 1520....a prince who for vices was not surpassed by any prince of his age. And because the Pope would not grant him a divorce from his wife, he renounced the old man of crafts, and was declared by the parliament and people of England supreme head on earth of the church of England....hence you see king craft in the outset, and that was to get a new wife. Secondly, Henry put down more than a thousand popish religious houses, and seized on their property to the amount of one hundred and eighty-three thousand pounds yearly....here you see craft again for money. And thus he proceeded to fit up a new fashion of crafts; but as I only intend a mere sketch of crafts, I shall proceed....From the best accounts I can recollect from history, there were many years ago 18,000 clergymen in England and Wales, of this law religious craft; and no doubt the craft men have greatly multiplied in number, since David Simpson left that corrupt establishment, and refused like an honest man any longer to practice the craft among them, and has given us a short account of it as follows....there are twenty-six bishops whose annual craft is $408,888 90;* when divided makes each craft man's share $15,726 50; such a fat craft as this is enough to make a Jew laugh. Well may these craft men ride in their carriages about the country like kings, and hire others to preach for them; well may they be called

*From the European Magazine of 1817, Benedick's History of all religions, and other documents recently come into my possession, it appears that the annual income of the Bishops of England is as follows:

Archbishop of Canterbury,	$88,800	Bishop of Lincoln,	$22,200
Bishop of Durham,	94,560	Bishop of Salisbury,	26,640
Bishop of York,	62,160	Bishop of Norwich,	17,760
Bishop of Winchester,	79,920	Bishop of Carlisle,	15,540
Bishop of Ely,	53,280	Bishop of St. David's,	22,200
Bishop of London,	39,960	Bishop of Rochester,	6,660
Bishop of Bath and Wells,	22,200	Bishop of Exeter,	13,320
Bishop of Chichester,	17,700	Bishop of Peterborough,	4,440
Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry,	22,200	Bishop of Bristol,	4,440
Bishop of Worcester,	17,760	Bishop of Landaff,	3,396
Bishop of Hereford,	21,756	Bishop of Gloucester,	5,328
Bishop of Bangor,	22,200	Bishop of Chester,	4,440
Bishop of Oxford,	13,320		
Bishop of Asaph,	26,640	Total, per year, for 26 Bishops,	$719,800

lords spiritual, support my lord John Bull in his tyranny, and sing and dance the tunes of Parliament for such plum puddings as these....who would not turn the spit, roast the beef, swear to the liturgy, support the crown, and sell his conscience for such a fat craft as this, and go to hell if needs it must be in the bargain. There is a mighty gang of craft men besides priests in this establishment....for there are 28 cathedrals, 26 deans, 60 arch-deacons, 554 prebends, canons, &c.... besides these there are about 3000 in orders, 900 lay officers, singing men, organists, &c....this band of craft men amounts to 36,000, and at that time the whole income of the craft was $6,666,666 67....so much for law craft, for laboring farmers and mechanics to maintain by the sweat of their brows. All these 36,000 craft men are of like occupation, and if called together what can't they do; they can and will keep the galling yoke of tithes, oppression and poverty upon the people of England; and the farmers and mechanics must maintain these men-made tyrants in luxury and pride, hellward. Don't think me harsh, for if you could hear the groans of the poor laborers of England and the cries of their wives and children for bread and clothes, you would be of another mind. Then take care of your priests, for all of the same craft may be expected to sing and dance the same tune, and pull the same string for wealth by their several crafts, for they are all of the same gang. If a priest looks for gain from his religion, he is a craft man and may call Demetrius brother. It is as plain as a, b, that self-interest will bind the whole band of craft men together, from generation to generation; and thus the people of England and Wales must expect to wear the yoke of oppression so long as theological schools keep going on. And this is one of the great curses of theological schools...to make craft men to tyrannise, oppress, and suck the purses and the blood of men; for in all countries where these factories have been set going, priestcraft and oppression are reigning predominant, and will continue to do so until they are stopped; for no sect can exist without priests, so the more priests the more force, until they ride rough shod over the liberties of the people, and establish their craft of gain. And in my opinion, theological schools in multiplying ungodly priests are rapidly hurrying Americans to the yoke of oppressed civil and religious liberty.... this is my rule to go by....same cause same effect is but sound philosophy. Oh, that I had a voice like thunder, I would speak to every American to stop, pause and think....think what theological schools, priestly influence, and law religion have brought other nations to....and when priestly influence once gets the yoke of tithes on your necks, their money and influence will hold it there....farewell, civil and religious liberty....labor, poor farmer....toil, poor mechanic....to riot in luxury blind guides. It appears to me very plainly, that the present movements of the priests are like a man breaking a yoke of oxen....first to coax them gently ....then the rope....then coax, rub, feed and stroke....then the yoke....then gently the cart...then a light load....then as much as they can bear....then more...galled necks or not, go they must, or the whip they must have without mercy or compassion. Just so are the priests doing....Oh, ye sons of liberty, ye children of wild oxen independence, to rove where you please and graze on the pastures of happiness according to your own liking, they are coaxing, persuading, begging, and putting on the yoke and cart, by large sums of money, theological and sunday schools, combined with the press and priestly influence....and I tell you, these worms will cut the root of our independence, and if they get law on their side, they will load the cart with tithes to the galling of your hearts....and you must go, or pop goes the whip.

If you will take the spy-glass of church history, you can see the effect of law religious craft....see a Bunyan groaning in prison twelve years, and a Rogers led to the flames with a heart ready to burst with grief, and nine loving children

weeping, with a wife following in anguish of soul to behold the funeral pile to burn their only stay and comfort of life...oh, dreadful sight! See the poor quakers banished, whipped, imprisoned and hung, in New-England. See the baptist ministers in Virginia fined, imprisoned, and whipped like slaves....all this and ten thousand times as much more, came by law-stimulating craft men. Oh, heavens! what a monster is a covetous priest when he can have law on his side to support his craft; he is without feeling, he can hear the cries of weeping widows and children for bread, when he has the means of taking out of the world the kind father that might have given it to them, and yet his heart be set on wealth by his craft. Oh, hellish monster law-craft! never show your bloody garments in America, since revolutionary patriotism has driven you from our shores. Then, Americans, beware of law religion...beware of craft men in sheep's clothing....beware of their calling all their craft men together, and making a dead set on Congress to establish their craft by law for gain....then for blood. Oh, let the tears of widows and children, the groans of prisoners. and the bloody beacons that stand on the coasts of other nations, warn Congress of any kind of law religion, no matter how foreign; or else step by step to ruin our highly favored country goes. Law religion never was any thing else but a craft of tyrants and priests for gain...Jesus Christ nor his apostles never did, nor never will, claim any kin with this metamorphosed imp of hell. I must desist, only observing that Ireland is paying £72,000 to 26 bishops, besides thousands to other crafts; and from a late statement, the British people are paying their clergy $50,000,000 yearly; France, $7,000,000....and Spain more;* ought not this to make Americans look out, and rise as one man in opposition to the first attempt of law religion, and look back with thankful hearts to God, and highly venerate the blood of our revolutionary fathers, that bursted such bands from the hands of us their children and on this memorable day established religious liberty in opposition to priestcraft and British tyranny....and I call on you, my audience, this day, never, no never, to part with liberty for less than it cost...the blood of the heart.

The third religion that I shall notice as having been established in the world, is that of Mahomet, or Mahomed...who was a very extraordinary man, an Arab of Hejiar by birth, commenced telling his tales in the seventh century and thus began laying the foundation of his craft. Mahomet was beautiful in his person, with forward large and keen eyes, clear judgment, decisive in conduct, his wit easy and social, possessed much natural acutenesss, and spoke fluently in the purest language of Arabia. In solitary retirement in the cave of Mecca, Mahomet appears to have conceived the idea of his prophetical mission, or founding this new craft. And as I have said all religious crafts are founded on certain fabricated tales, and not on miracles like the religion of God, I must mention some of his tales...he tells the world of his night journeys to heaven, his visions were very frequent he said with God and angels, and some of them wonderful, beatific, &c. Mahomet was the grandson of the most powerful family in Mecca, and

*Benedick, in his history of all religions, states the income of the Clergy of all denominations in the world, at $78,813,840. France had before the revolution of 1787, about 460,000 Clergy and craft men of different sorts of the law religion of Popery—and putting the population of France at that time at 24 or 25 millions, the Clergy were about or at least 1-60th part of the inhabitants, and the revenue of the Clergy at that time was supposed to be 170,000,000 livres. In Spain, before the revolution, the Clergy and others of this law Catholic craft, amounted to 180,000 in numbers; while their real property in lands, buildings, &c. amounted to 186,000,000 of pounds, besides tithes, taxes, fees, and dues forthcoming otherwise—this property of the Clergy was put to sale after the revolution, and was stated by the Cortes to amount to 140,000,000, to pay off the national debt—since that time the Clergy has been on the decline.

got much wealth by marriage...the first twelve years of his mission he had recourse to persuasion to establish his craft; three years were silently employed in the conversion of fourteen proselytes; for ten years his craft advanced with a slow and painful progress within the walls of Mecca...how soon his first adherents were let into the secret of his views of empire, is not easy to determine; but not to dwell...has the religion of Mahomet the marks of craft upon it? Yes, my audience..I have diligently compared the Alcoran with the New Testament and found perhaps not less than twenty places of forgery, where he borrowed the ideas from the New Testament, but changed the phraseology of the words; as well as acknowledged the name of Abraham, Noah, Jesus Christ, and others, to gloss over his craft and make it pass with these sons of Ishmael. And when he fled from Mecca to Medina the people received him, and it was here that this craft man with a naked sword in his hand and uplifted arm, commenced proclaiming to the whole world the great dogmas of his craft...that there was one God and that Mahomet was his prophet, and whoever refused to acknowledge him as such should be instantly put to death. This is a sword craft....a craft too powerful to be resisted; and he soon compelled the whole country of Arabia to join in with this craft, and then burst forth into the Roman territories, and taught them his Koran craft was not to be despised; and thus established this craft in Arabia, Asia, part of Africa, Spain, Sicily, and many European isles. Now for the marks of this craft....first, by joining the craft they saved their lives; secondly, every soldier in this craft equally divided the spoils of the conquered nations, after the reservation of one-fifth for charitable purposes; thirdly, lustful gratifications was another part of this craft, for the craft men were allowed a plurality of wives; and fourthly, they were assured that the sword of Mahomet was the key of heaven and of hell...a drop of blood shed in the cause of God, a night spent in arms, is of more avail than two months of fasting and prayer...whoever falls in battle his sins are forgiven at the day of judgment, his wounds shall be as resplendent as vermilion and odoriferous as musk, and the loss of his limbs shall be supplied by the wings of angels and cherubim. Another part of his craft was his voluptuous paradise, his robes of silk, his palaces of marble, his groves and shades...but above all, his seventy-two virgins assigned to each of the faithful, of resplendent beauty and eternal youth, were enough to intoxicate the imaginations and seize the passions and make craft men by thousands. Much more might be said, but surely here is enough to convince any man, that this is a religion of crafts, though established by the sword, and of course a religion of blood.

The fourth religion I shall notice as having been established in the world, is the Missionary establishment....and will examine that for the marks of craft. It is abundantly harped upon that Jesus Christ and his apostles were all missionaries...that is agreed to as to words or office, but here lies the great matter in dispute...were they craft men? did they make gain by godliness? did they make a craft of their religion, like modern missionaries? I hope to shew presently from the New Testament they did not. The first moneyed Missionary Society that ever was established in the world, as I can find on the pages of history, was established in the year 1622, by Pope Gregory XV. (for the New Testament knows nothing of money established religion) and then called the Congregation for Propagation of the Faith. It had, like our modern missions, an incredible number of donors, rich and emulous to excel in the greatest gifts, as well as being greatly enriched by Urban VIII. And by this Congregation's money a vast number of missionaries were sent to the remotest parts of the world, among the most barbarous nations, and in India, China and Japan. Thousands were won over by the artful and industrious Jesuits and monks to embrace the

Catholic faith. But this boasted missionary career was of short duration, for these missionary craft men soon began to meddle with political affairs, like some of modern time, and were by the jealous rulers of those countries expelled from their dominions; and thousands of their converts were put to the sword, and the rest returned to paganism; and thus ended the first moneyed missionary enterprize. Now was there any craft in this mission? Surely...for it is well authenticated from history, that the Pope was often generalissimo of the armies, and often gave battle in person to the enemies of the Catholic faith; and of course the more territory the more soldiers, the more soldiers the more power, as well as the more room for the sale of pardons and indulgences; and the more sale the more wealth to the craft, while the great object was to grasp at the reins of government, which the jealous rulers caught them at in nick of time to save their country from the hands of such tyrants, whose masters often sent these purse plunderers to force the heathen into the belief of Christianity, and baptise nations at the point of the sword to enrich the See of Rome, or bring wealth to the craft men.

The sect of Christians called Moravians, founded the second mission about one hundred years ago. The third missionary establishment was formed about twenty or thirty years ago in London, called the Evangelical Society. The fourth, called the Baptist Missionary Society, in England. And lastly, the Baptist Missionary Society in America....with others of like occupation. All of which are founded on beggars and money, like that of Pope Gregory's. These are all important establishments of the craft kind, (for their like cannot be found in the New Testament,) the bases of which are money, honor, and titles....the love of which (money) is the root of all evil, to clergymen as well as others.... has been....is....and will be; and when sanctioned by law for priests to obtain it, the curse of nations.

Now all these established societies of the craft kind have, by the money given to agents, running beggars, subscription bearers, &c. been wonderfully prolific throughout the several States, as well as other countries, in begetting daughters whom I shall call auxiliary societies to the craft. Now I ask you candidly, my hearers, to put your hand on your breast and say, whether you do or do not believe that money has been the main spring, the chief stimulus in all this mighty doing, and not God but men by money are doing this. Some no doubt are giving from what they conceive the purest motives, while others are filling their pockets out of their weakness....and the givers to theological schools and other societies I say, according to my best information and judgment at fifty years old, are sowing the hemp that will make the ropes to hang their children...for all hands but the honest givers, it seems to me, shew the same length of foot.... craft....from the priest to the printer.

But as I am limited to a mere sketch, I shall begin with the Baptist Missionary Society, founded in England. In the year 1784, at an Association held at Nottingham, England, it was agreed to set apart an hour of prayer the first Monday evening in every month, for a revival of religion and the extension of Christ's kingdom in the world...so far plausible. Now who were at the head, plan, or seem to have had the chief management of this society? Why, John Ryland, Reynold Hogg, William Cary, John Sutcliff, and Andrew Fuller. Were they priests? Surely....for do you not know that the priests were, are, and must be, at the head of all the schemes of the day. And Mr. Cary was one of the committee and help form the plan that has got him along, according to the best accounts I can get, to $6,000 a year; a good business indeed for a preacher....neither the prophets, John the Baptist, nor Christ nor his apostles, ever sheared such a loaf as this. Mr. Robertson and wife were allowed $840

per year, and Mr. Chater and wife and two children were allowed $960 a year for missionary services. Now, my hearers, say whether you think either of these men would have left the British shore, if it had so turned out there had been no money. I think not. Then if they could not go without money, but you must add that before they can go, I should say money turns the point....and on this pivot turns all the societies of the day, in my opinion. You find no money in Jesus' going to Nineveh, nor in Paul's voyages to the heathen, nor in Christ's crossing the sea of Gallilee to preach the gospel....no money is begged, no society is formed, nor salary is allowed them for scouring the seas and preaching the gospel to the heathen....but although these things cannot be found in the New Testament, they are said to be right; but if they are, in my opinion, it is only so to support priestcraft in the earth and live on the labor of other people.

We next, my audience, shall notice the American missionary craft. And for goodness' sake, how came this craft to find its way to the land of steady habits, the land of liberty? I tell you, it was the priests' doings....for you know the American tailors cut their cloth after British fashions, and the whole train follows the higher orders of society...and why should not the priests of America form their plans of money getting, and adopt British fashionable crafts, since they are men of like occupation? Then the truth of the case is just this....the northern priests, many of whom are salary men, hearing of the fashion of missions adopted in England, called together men of like occupation and when assembled they hatch this missionary egg, which has since filled the States with a peace-disturbing brood of crafts, without thus saith the Lord for their proceeding. But, fellow citizens, lest I should weary you with no doubt what some will call nonsense, or as they have done, political harangues, I shall proceed to examine for the constant, united, scriptural marks of a false religion and false priests...that is, whether the American mission has the mark of craft. These northern priests soon in their pamphlets, letters, and papers, let the scattered priests know their design, and a great many fell into their views, some no doubt from one cause and some from another; but take it by the lump, the priests are the cause of all this, whether the craft is right or wrong, for that they led others into it must be acknowledged; but from what motive they have ben actuated, is the main point in question....and as we cannot search their hearts, we must try them by their actions, for actions speak louder and more truth than words, pamphlets, or missionary newspapers, since by their fruit ye shall know them. And first, as regards theological schools...who but the priests conceived the scheme and devised the plan and set them going, through their influence on society? You must know this is the truth. Is there any craft in them? I should say there is nothing else but craft. The religion of Jesus Christ stood and flourished for three hundred years, not only without their aid, but in opposition to them; and how else should it be, since salvation is by grace, and the gospel the power of God and the wisdom of God, and the world by wisdom know not God....and I defy any man to prove that theological schools were ever made an auxiliary to Christianity, until it became an established priestcraft.... and since those days it has been necessary, my audience, to have them, to support priestcraft; but when Christianity shone in her virgin beauty it was not so.* Do you not think the teachers of theology were thinking, when those

*When the Ark of God was in the hands of the Philistines it was a curse to the nation, because out of the hands of the priests of God's choice and appointment—so even so in all countries, when the gospel and Christ's cause gets in the hands and is managed by the men of this world, and priests not chosen and qualified by God to bear the message of salvation—a curse, a great curse. Why then shall not America feel the curse from the same cause?

plans were formed, I am the man that will be chosen, and $2500 will be a handsome craft, besides the honor attached to the office? Do you not think that those young men who go thither, have in view the craft of getting a salary, the more of the gentleman, a rich wife, the honor of being called the learned, the greater preacher, and living without work? But I am sorry to say some of them are not ashamed to beg, and thus disgrace the ministerial office....when all the moneyed affairs of the Christian community, by the New Testament, belongs to the office of deacon.

Secondly, as to missions. We find in black and white that the Board of the North-Carolina Baptist Society for foreign and domestic missions, ordered that their agent should be paid $540 for services, being at the rate of $40 per month; and to others who were not so proficient in the art, $1 per day for their services as missionaries. What were their gain or loss I know not....but one thing I know, they have broke the peace and harmony of the churches of North-Carolina; and I think that money, and not the souls of men was the cause...for out of the fund of the society, which was $2088 72½, they divided $1852 21½. if they got what the Board ordered them for services. Now I ask you seriously, my audience, as some of you are Bible readers, whether such forming societies, begging, funding, and dividing the spoil, is a craft or not; and whether the first Christians practiced any craft like this; or whether such conduct is found among Christ and his apostles? It has always appeared to me, that when I see a minister, after preaching a missionary moneyed sermon come down out of the pulpit, singing and shaking hands to whet up the passions and press upon young ladies to form a missionary society and give their money, that the preaching, the singing, and the shaking of hands of the minister, were but the craft of the preacher to have access to the purse; and it would be in my mind, these are they that creep into houses and lead captive silly women laden with divers sins, &c. (Paul)....and also when I have seen the missionary preacher stretch every nerve of eloquence, and bear hard on every pathetic string to affect his audience in favor of missions, I never could help saying craft in the preacher, to catch money and not souls. And when I have seen a parcel of priests assembled to devise plans to get money to convert the heathen, (for I have set in missionary board) I have been astonished to see that they by the by would get part as it was passing; and that they should form the plan and so turn the wheel as to bring them out the prize, I was forced to think there is craft somewhere....and the same Board ordered that my humble secretary should be paid $15 for his services.... shall I say craft or not. And I ask what has become of the $1799, left in this fund the last time that the Board met, as I know of? For it has been rumored that $600 of it has gone to buy western country land, and the rest it is supposed has taken French leave. Now does one instance appear, my hearers, in the New Testament, of a prophet, or Christ, or his apostles, ever being hired to preach, to beg, or to form societies to make money? You know there is not such a precedent in the word of God. Then I must say preaching, begging, and forming of societies, is a craft to get money, set in operation by priests, and carried on by....you comb my head and I will scratch your elbow. But what is the worst of all, the conversion of sinners which is the work of God. must be lugged into this craft to make it current with the public. You beg for me and I will pay you for your services. And what has become of the $25,000 begged out of Congress for the ministerial factory....to give away which Congress had no right, for it was the nation's money and they ought to have applied it to national use, and not sectarian individual benefit. And I would further ask you, my audience, if any of you know to what use the missionaries applied that $16.000 it is said they got from the Indians that was due from the United States for these

poor creatures' land, and how Congress paid it? Why what will not a priest do? even beg and then divide, and perhaps the last cent of negro, widow, children, or Indian....for what differs this craft from that of Demetrius, in getting wealth out of negro or Indian, goat or sheep, so wealth is coming? And what differs the selling of membership into missionary societies and bible societies, from $2 to $50 for membership, from the sale of pardons, indulgences, or silver shrines by Demetrius? I see none....or at least, I think, my hearers, they are all crafts, and equally craft men's different trades for wealth...what say you?

But time would fail me to tell of the barefaced conduct of craft men, imposed on the public under the color of the say so of Jesus Christ....be it sufficient to say, when you see a missionary box on the frontispiece, or on board of a steamboat, say to yourself, oh, cunning, crafty priest, you shall not befool me, for here stands an evidence of your craft; when you see a board of missionaries, met to devise plans for the conversion of sinners, tie your purse fast, if you do not, craft men are so crafty that by some hook or crook they will get into it; when you see a subscription runner, say craft man...take care you are not begged out of countenance; when you see a young man hunting about from town to town, in boots and sacred black, for a place to preach for hire, say craft man; when you see and hear a man preach, go ye into all the world and preach money to every creature, say craft man; when you see a publication to call craft men together, be sure of some new devised craft for wealth, or they think their craft is in danger; when you see and hear a man preach the poor heathen, the destitute, and instead of the gospel the wonderful works of missionaries, and oh come, both goats and sheep, cast your money into the treasury, blasphemously called the Lord's, be sure that man is paid in some way for his services, and is at his craft; when you see a bag hanging at the meeting-house door, full of old rags, say paper priestcraft; when you hear a missionary promise to send a parcel of ladies a preacher, if they will give their money, and get their money and away, say craft....and indeed it seems to me, that this system of religion is nothing else but craft, from the priest to the printer, for to get their wealth like Demetrius of old, since they can sell images of northern priests and memberships in various societies, to support their craft. And what shall I say of the titles annexed to missions...are they not intended as a craft to catch men and women for wealth? such as, his highness, president, vice-president, director, directress, corresponding and recording secretary, treasurer, D. D. L. L. D....A. M. &c. are not these good bait to catch flies? of which titles the first christians speak not a word of their being among them...for all these crafts have arisen since, of which the devil must keep his register, for the New Testament keeps none. Then is it any wonder that some men pour forth in strains of eloquence, like the town clerk, which of you knoweth not that the high-minded baptists, and rich men, and great and honorable men, and my lord governor, and judges, lawyers, and chief captains have bought membership into missionary and bible societies, and are worshippers of the great goddess of missions...and keep the churches and people of the United States in an uproar, like the city of the Ephesians by the craft of Demetrius and his gang, because a few like Paul oppose them. Thus the cry to Congress, help to maintain the sanctity of the Sabbath....and hence, oh ye sons of liberty, look abroad and behold these men of like occupation in every State, and almost in every county, actively engaged and concentrating their force to a point, and at the same time attacking one of the most valuable institutions of our country, that of the transportation of the mail. I call on you, fellow citizens, to arise like Sampsons, in defence of religious liberty, and burst those priestly withes, and carry away web, beam and all...and not sleep in Delilah's lap until the yoke is on your necks and your locks shorn by vigilant

priests and acts of Congress, and your children grind in the prison house of civil and religious tyranny.

We preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake, is the language of a Paul...but the language of missionaries seems to me should read thus: ourselves your servants for money's sake.

And what shall I say of tract, sunday school, temperance, and bible societies, &c. Are they not of the same sort? were not the priests the inventors? do they not use all their influence, like Demetrius, to keep up a trade in these things, as he did by selling shrines? do they not roar out in their papers, like him, against all that oppse, our craft is in danger? I understood these bibles were to be given away, as the effect of the money given by donors to the society, but is it so? is not the society selling them at any price they can get? are not the bible distributors making a craft of it at $40 per month? are not the printers making a craft of it like other printers? are not the venders of these bibles making a craft of it like other book sellers? And are they not, by reason of this money given to the society, forcing other printers out of employ and amassing the printing of the bible to themselves as a religious craft? And where is the $25,000 of stock that it is said the society has taken in the institutions of the north? And who does that money belong to? the givers....no indeed, for they have neither bond nor assurance how this money is to be disposed of, but just as the society may choose. And is this society incorporated? I understand not. Well then, suppose they betray trust, how then? Why it can only go as some others have gone... a hint to the wise is enough. But the distribution of bibles has been going on sometime, what has been the effect on society in general? Why from all I can see and hear, society is worse in its morals than when I could first remember....more pride, more dress, less confidence between men, more failures, suicides, murders, than there were thirty-five years ago. The Bible is the best of books, but how many thousands have lived and died in sin with one in their house for forty years; and how many thousands have been hopefully converted to God that never owned a Bible, nor read a word in one? Yea, my observation tells me, of this sort is the greater number of professors of religion. In a word, when I see men trading and trafficking in religious matters, it smells to me rank of priestcraft....and the giving money enables the society to sell them for less than others, then look out for this trade to become wholly in the end the traffic of the priests....and are they the most to be entrusted with the Bible? no, my audience, whenever it shall so fall out that any one sect has the trust, and disposal of the Bible, look out for corruption of the sacred text....for I have seen some instances already.

Much is said about the Temperance Society....but if I am rightly informed those who join are not to drink one drop....if so, it has a wrong name, for it ought to be called the Abstaining Society. Does such a society agree with scripture? Drink no longer water, says Paul to Timothy, but use a little wine... and of deacons he saith, not given to much wine....and the Saviour drank wine. And because some men make a storehouse of their belly, I must eat none....and because some men have burnt up their kettles, I must not hang mine on the fire ....and because some men have been killed by medicine, I must not use it prudently. What sophistry of priests! And because some men eat so much as to make them sick, I must not eat enough to keep me alive....and because some men eat too much meat and bread, I must not make meat and bread nor trade in these articles...and because some men make a beast of their belly and get drunk, I must not make fruit brandy, still it, or trade in this article. The scripture is not against drinking, but against drinking too much, or drunkenness; for the mosaic priest was permitted to drink wine, but not when he was going to offici-

ate. And Paul saith, every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused, for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer; and let your moderation be known to all men. And it is the right way to make drunkards, to keep sober all day and be drunk all night...the worst sort of greedy drunkards are these, priests not excepted. Don't mistake....set things right....for this society puts me in mind of Paul's prophecy, who said some should arise that would forbid to marry and abstain from meats which God had created to be received...and that was priestcraft under the Romish church, none can deny....and this being so nigh a kin to it, I think this is modern priestcraft, that has a form of godliness, to a better craft out of present sight. I shall then take my grog, wine, or what not, when I please, nor will I debar myself the privilege and pleasure of asking my friends or enemies to do so; and let such over-zealous, self-righteous craft men help themselves if they can....for it is like the pharisees of old, great pretence outside, but the craft was to devour some widow's house. Cry aloud, ye priests, and spare not, against drunkenness; but let moderation alone, lest you jump as far in the ditch on the other side.

And as regards Tract Societies and Sunday School Unions, they are about the worst of the whole gang, for they are also the inventions of the priests, and contain craft for printers, and they should cry out as well as the priests, our craft is in danger, for you know by this our printing tracts we have our wealth....and the writers should cry out, since premiums are offered for the best tract on such a subject...and the traders in tracts also may cry out...but the worst of all the effects, is the sectarian principles infused in the minds of youth; for it is but reasonable to suppose that the writers will squint an eye to their party, and give that turn to them that will mostly establish and enhance their sect. And will not Sunday School Unions force out of schools all books but those approved by the priests and their party, and bend the twig to incline to their point, and thus pave the way to the desired end....and this party in the end monopolise books, schools, sentiments, men and power, and the end of all crafts, money? Besides, it is a great convenience as well as advantage to get the people formed into various societies, because they are much easier governed; and much more easily brought to bear at any wanted point, and at a given time, because it increases the greater number of actual controlers in lesser bands...hence, see what an easy matter to bring all the priests at a given time and to a focus in the several States in their petitions to Congress for stopping the mail....what an easy matter it is for them to collect money, when they have got men and women thus craftily formed into societies....this was a grand piece of priestcraft. Now having them thus formed, it is but say, and receive without much trouble....well they might pay runners to go about and form societies, because they can now stay at home and money is pouring in to the craft; for some of these societies, if I am informed right, pay annually, after having purchased a shrine of the craft men of membership into Bible and other societies. I tell you, my audience, that it is my candid opinion, that this society craft will enslave our country. In a word, all these chief societies make use of employed runners as sponges to suck up the riches of a tour, and squeeze it and then send them off in another direction to be filled again. I repeat it, these societies of every sort manifest a wonderful love of money, for they embrace every method of procuring it, even to old rags; and thus they sponge and squeeze, and never say enough. It does appear to me, my audience, that the greater part of the religion of these days is a craft, a religion of trade and speculation, from the priest to the printer; and has been established in public opinion without a proper comparison with the religion of Jesus Christ; and that the priests have devised the plans of all these things to handle money; and after devising the plans, then hire others to carry them in-

to execution, and pay them for their services; thus by the influence of the priests and money, great things have been done, it is said. But I am such an unbeliever of these priestly tales, I must say, like Jesus said in his day to such craft men...you compass sea and land to make a proselyte, and when you have made him he is but two-fold more the child of hell than yourselves. For, by plans of priests, by hired beggars, by subscription runners of those priests they thought had the most influence and could work most on the passions of men to get money, was this religion begun, continued, and carried on, and not by God's spirit. And secondly, the publication of donors' names has been a great means to establish this religion of missions, since thousands of men will buy honor with money. Thirdly, the great concern that some priests seem to have for the destitute and the heathen, while the end of the row was money in their own pockets. But most of all those who have gone the furthest and done the most to establish this missionary religion, are the givers to those various societies, to make shrines for the goddess of missions; for no customers no trade by Demetrius and his crafty gang; equally so, no giving no runners, no subscription bearers, no craft men of course, and the goddess of missions and her magnificence are soon destroyed. Thus this religion of crafts, with the whole train of missions, bible and tract societies, theological and sunday schools, have their men and I think may properly be called craft men, employed every man looking for gain from his quarter. And I think, my audience, when all these craft men are called together with money and influence on the people, they can do wonders in the United States....all moving in harmony at the same juncture of time and to the same point. I tell you, my hearers, as a faithful watchman on the walls of Zion, our civil and religious liberty is in danger, in my opinion; and the magnificence of our republic in great danger of being destroyed by these designing * *—up, each one of you, and be doing his part, for there is no time for you to sleep on your oars, or else backwards we go by the adverse winds of priestcraft to the chains of priestly tyranny as in the days of Britain....and don't forget, for heaven's and your children's sake, that the price of liberty is blood. A thousand times more might be said on the schemes of the day, but I must desist at present, only observing that there are ways to avert this storm and save your country and liberty to your children, and perhaps children's children, or I think our country is gone...first, don't give one cent to any of these societies; but what you have to give, give to the poor and the needy, the fatherless and widow, and their souls will bless you, and you will be acting according to scripture, and shall be blessed in the deed; for without money craft men or these societies cannot exist. Secondly, discountenance every man travelling under the patronage or to promote any of these societies, being sure he is a craft man, and not even honor him with a hearing as money is his design...which I for many years have determined not to do, as I regard such as laying a foundation that may hereafter overturn our happy republic. Thirdly, I say to save your country, you should not support any man for public office in the States, that is a member of, or that is in favor of the societies of the day, lest any bill supporting priestcraft should come before the State or National Legislature, and there meet with priest-made friends to rivet the yoke on your necks....for as the people are now sovereign of the States, for God's sake hold on and don't let the priests have the sovereignty; if you do, nothing but money will not do, for then blood and slavery must be added to these craft men....for of all the men in the world I dread the tyranny of an unconverted, men-made, money-coveting priest; I had rather be under the government of a deist, an atheist, or a Turk, than such hell and men-made tyrants as these money-hunting craft men, who have stimulated the magistrates of the world to fill the earth with blood and cruelty. And the American uncon-

verted factoried priests are no better; all that is wanting is law on their side, and then for dungeons, gibbets, flames, fine and forfeiture, whips and confiscation of goods and banishment...and for heaven's sake, my countrymen, never come even to a toleration fight until you die, yea die by the pole of American liberty and under the banner of a waving eagle, rather than ask of the magistrate how you shall worship your God....for such a favor is not to be asked by the citizen, nor granted by the creature of human power, but is the right of all men.

Fifthly and lastly, I come to notice the religion of Jesus Christ, as having been established in the world, and examine that in a short way for crafts. Jesus Christ, the founder of this holy, humble, self-denying, world-loosing, and God-depending religion, was born, according to the best accounts on the 25th day of December, in the year of the world 4004, in a stable in a town called Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, but of poor parentage yet of royal extraction, from the family of David king of Israel. And he must have been the same person of whom the prophet Isaiah speaks....that a virgin should be with child and bring forth a son and call his name Emanuel, (God with us,) when compared with the conception and birth of Jesus as given by the Evangelist...for mark, he does not say a woman shall be with child, for thousands had been and were in his day and had brought forth their sons....but, my hearers, the prophet here has a clear view of God's method of providing the world with a Saviour....a virgin shall be with child, (that is, a woman that never knew a man)...a miracle indeed, and such an one as infidels snuff the nose at; yet compared with Paul's saying, (made of a woman,) and with the declaration of the angel, thou shalt conceive and bring forth a son, &c. will be found to exactly agree. And whoever will be at the pains to carefully examine and compare the various prophecies in their most minute and circumstantial details, with the New Testament, as regards the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, must be struck with the accurate fulfilment of prophecy in the person of Christ Jesus; and it cannot be applied to any other character or any other man of whom history informs us....as well as the spread of his doctrine, increase of followers, &c. For the novel circumstance of a virgin being with child by the Holy Ghost, a case I never heard of but this, nor read of in the pages of history...his character by the prophet, God with us, which could not have been any other way but as described by Gabriel...Joseph's dream...his star in the east....the coming of the wise men to Jerusalem...their inquiry in the courts of Herod, for him that was born King of the Jews...the consulting of the prophecies to find where, and finding as they said....the star going before and standing over where the young child was....the proclamation of the angels to the shepherds; their directions where to find him, and the signs, swadling bands and laying in a manger...the heavenly hosts singing the exact ditty of the life-effects of the gospel on the souls of sinners, by the life and death of this man....the prophecies of Simeon and Anna....the death of the Hebrew children by the sword of Herod...his going to Egypt, his return to Nazareth, &c. is such a combination of uncommon, evidential circumstances to prove the extraordinary personage of this man Christ Jesus, that cannot by one-fifth part be found to prove any other historical fact on earth...for the birth of Julius or Augustus Cæsar, Solomon, David, Washington, or Bonaparte, has not the twentieth part of evidences for their birth, and the manner how and where, and their character that should follow and was fulfilled in the presence of eye witnesses, as well as prophecies going before accomplished. And as for the character of his life, where and how he lived, the doctrine he taught, the suffering and reproaches he underwent, the miracles he wrought, the cures he effected, the goodness of his conduct and disposition, his readiness to help the distressed without money, the manner of his

death, the followers he had and their sufferings and disinterested character and world-loosing behavior and labor to support themselves, are as well and better founded than many other historical facts that are universally received....having the testimony of sacred and profane history, of cotemporary historians, of friends and of enemies, of angels and of God, of eye and ear witnesses, of miracles, and of a virtuous and suffering and disinterested life....with the addition of a system of morality whose evidences is such, that shows that the system must have emanated from the Deity, because it breathes the very spirit of the general dealing of God in the government of the world; breathing nothing else but peace, love, good will and kindness from God to man, and from man to man; and not blood and cruelty like priestcraft has in most of the nations of the earth for gain to priests. And I cannot see why I should not as fully believe in all Jesus did and taught, as what Cicero, Pliny, Virgil, Homer, or Josephus did and taught, whose writings have come down to us.... and more so, because Christ is not the writer of his own history, but the united history of four men who were eye witnesses of the facts, who suffered hardships, faced dangers, suffered loss and died in defence of what they taught and wrote...which, though they somewhat disagree in their history, yet that disagreement is but the better proof of the authority of their several accounts of his transactions, for the only difference is in mode of expression, and omissions and additions, and shews plainly they did not copy one from another, and that no four men on earth could have compiled a fabulous history to have agreed in so many particulars, but must have been eye witnesses of the facts recorded.....for if false, they being cotemporary must have known it; if true, surely it is to be expected there would be some difference in the relation of facts. On the publication of the life of Christ we find no histories, either sacred or profane, daring to dispute the facts, for these things were too notorious among both Jews and Gentiles, in town and country, to be disputed....and if they did dispute, miracles were wrought in confirmation of these truths, to the stopping the mouths of gainsayers....as said the Jewish magistrates, a notable miracle has been done by these men and we cannot deny it....and God bearing the apostles witness with divers signs and wonders and gifts of the Holy Ghost, stopped the mouths of gainsayers; while their clothing, manner of fare, reception in town and country, as well as general and daily conduct, proved they were not craft men in woolen blue.

This poor Jew, Jesus by name, commenced his ministry in the land of Judea without education; which should prove to us his religion is not a religion of education...without wealth, then his religion is not a religion of wealth....without missionary society funds, without the aid of the rich priests, scribes, pharisees, or rulers of the Jews....without the aid of the schools, or the patronage of law, kings, or statesmen...nor with sword, like Mahomet...or law, or fear of prisons, fires, gibbets, banishments, confiscation of goods, or death, like the Pope, or High Church of England...nor as the craft men of heathen gods and goddesses, with persecution of a Paul for fear of the danger of losing the sale of silver shrines...But, in that low, humble, reasoning, persuasive, gentle and peaceable disposition of the gospel spirit, that breathes peace on earth, good will towards man or even to enemies, like God in his providence sending rain on the just and unjust, giving life, health and blessing to all. And thus commenced establishing christianity, upon conduct and principles as foreign to priestcraft as north is to south; for proof of which, I beg you to read the New Testament....for the religion of Jesus Christ has neither money, learning, honor, titles, nor wealth for its support, and of course there is nothing to make a craft of...so Christ's religion is not a religion of craft, but ungodly priests have often made a craft of it. For the sublimity and morality of the doctrine of Christ carried conviction to

the hearts of enemies, of their righiness and fitness to benefit men here and hereafter, as well as the peace and good of society; and not like priestcraft, that spreads uproar and confusion in cities, and cruelty and desolation in nations...for although these things followed wherever the religion of Jesus came, it was not the effects nor the disposition of the religion of Jesus Christ that done it...but was because the religion of Jesus Christ upset to the very foundation all craft in religion, for it admits it not. Thus when the Romish priests introduced their priestcraft, blood flowed in torrents, because there were some men on earth of the religion of Jesus that protested against the introduction of this new craft of Popes and priests trading in religion. Equally so when the High Church of England by her priests, king, and parliament introduced their law priestcraft... there were some in that country that did possess this disinterested, world-loosing religion of Jesus Christ; and protesting against it, prisons and flames were their lot....this did not flow from the religion of Jesus Christ, but from the craft men like Demetrius, who was afraid of the loss of his wealth by his craft. Just so now in our times, the introduction of missionary crafts has made a terrible hubbub in towns, country and church, and missionaries say it is the opposers that have done it....I say, with the independence of that liberty of conscience bought with blood, they are false charges of those that fear for their craft...for the case is the same, there are yet some men on earth that possess the religion of the humble Jesus, and preach for Jesus' sake and not for money's sake, and whose daily conduct proves they are not craft men...and those that roar out, infidel, ignorant, weak, fools, or it is for want of sense, such fellows as these are men of craft; and nothing is wanting but law on their side, and then like Demetrius, Popes, priests of England and America, for prisons, flames and hanging, and roaring out our craft is in danger, kill these heretics and do God and the world service. Now to convince any man that such cruel, bloody craft men do not possess the spirit of Christ or his doctrines, listen to specimens of his doctrine....to his followers: I say unto you, love your enemies, do good to them that hate you and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you....and for what? that you may be the children of your father which is in heaven. And again.... hear and understand....whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do you even so unto them. Did Demetrius do so? Did the pharisees do so? Did the priests of Rome, Spain, France, England, or America, that have robbed the purses of negroes, widows and men, and imprisoned and burnt thousands to death, act up to these sublime and peace-making doctrines? No, my audience... fallen nature possesses no such a spirit we know, from what we feel within; nor does it possess even an inclination to act according to those doctrines, more especially when gain or self-interest is at stake. And I tell you, there never was nor never will be, a covetous craft man that ever did or will possess this heaven-born disposition; it is alone in the regenerate soul, and not in men of craft. These doctrines of Christ are short, easy to be understood, and no man can question if acted up to, that their advantages both to civil and religious society must be unspeakably great...hence it was said, never man spake like this man; no, neither Moses, Seneca, nor Cato, in all their lessons of morality.

But, my hearers, I have no doubt already wearied you, and therefore shall hasten to a conclusion. I call upon you this day, that are readers of the New Testament, to say, in defence of the honor of Jesus Christ and his doctrine and apostles, as well as the Christian religion in its primitive state, whether he was a craft man or not? whether you remember one instance in his life, or precept, that will shew any thing like a craft, or gain, or that even smells of a scheme to get money? I call upon you to say, if you do not think he could have made a great craft of his preaching, his miracles, his cures, or even

the sight of himself? You know he could....but you know also the history of his life shows he did not. All was free, all was willingly, only living on the voluntary charity of the world....Susannah and others, and Simon the pharisee, administering to his necessities, without hired beggars, society formers, or subscription runners, to create funds to send him or support him as a preacher while in the world; and would sooner work a miracle to get money to pay his tax; than be a craft man. What shall I say of John the Baptist? In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea; the same John had his clothing of camel's hair, (coarse stuff,) and a leathern girdle about his loins...(and not boots and broadcloth, and silver-headed canes and gold watch-chains, often the effects of scheme-craft on the weak and credulous)....and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Is there, my audience, found in the New Testament, any thing like craft in this first gospel minister? You know there is not. Next we come to the apostles, Paul, Peter, James and John; and upon examination of their epistles, as to doctrine, practices and exhortations, is there any thing like forming societies for to raise money outside of the church of God? Are there any exhortations to that effect? Are there any beggars, societies, or subscription runners among the Jews, to send the gospel to the heathen? Is there any forming societies, begging, funding, and dividing thereby, among the apostles? Are there any schemes laid by them, to bring them in money? Do they seek to have laws passed to give them salaries? Do they say, if you will give me so much, I will preach for you? Oh no, these are all the marks of craft men, and not the marks of Christ's ministers, as you may easily see...ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake, not for filthy lucre sake...these hands have ministered to my necessities, I will most gladly spend and be spent for you; I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also....and for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. And although Paul received a gift from the church at Philippi, yet he laid the foundation and built up that church...Lydia and the jailor the first converts... and this was a church that knew and did her duty. Let him that is taught in the word communicate to him that teaches in all good things....and in this way has the Lord ordained that they that preach the gospel should live of the gospel, by the voluntary charity of the church and world, and not by scheming and begging craft men, lying, and cheating the public, promising to do one thing with their money and do another. But is there any thing among the apostles, in life, conduct, or doctrine, that has even a shew of scheming priest-craft for gain, as in these days, by every stratagem that the ingenuity of craft men can devise? You know, my hearers, neither their conduct nor doctrines, as given us in the epistles, show such marks as those of a scheming craft man.... no, they disclaim it, for hear Paul: supposing gain is godliness, from such turn away...and they shall make merchandize of you, and run greedily after the error of Balaam...these are the marks of craft men, given by the Holy Ghost, and don't they fit priests in conduct in these days, is for you to judge.

Lastly, can you find any thing like money-craft among the prophets, from Enoch to the close of prophecy? Doth not Elisha put the mark of his disdain on moneyed religion, by enstamping the leprosy on Gaharia, who made a craft of the miracle of his master? I now challenge the world to shew any marks of craft on the prophets, John the Baptist, Christ, or his apostles, or the first propagators of christianity. Come forth, if such marks are to be found...I am ready to meet you in the field. And if you cannot...say by what authority do you form societies, beg money...oh, ye priests, ye crafty, scheming priests, to get money by all the shameful schemes of the day...and under what master you serve, God or devil? For if the proceedings of missionary conduct is to be found in the

scriptures, either in begging money or scheming to get it, I am a fool in christian politics. I challenge any man, from Canada to Pensacola, to show by the scriptures any marks of craft in the conduct of the prophets, Christ or his apostles; or shew any appearance of scheming and devising plans to get money by selling memberships into societies, begging or trading in religion, for gain to themselves or others. But that they lived on their own labor and the voluntary charity of their brethren and the world, this is a God's truth. And the religion of these days is the reverse of their conduct, and so must be a craft.

The religion of Jesus Christ is peaceable, gentle, kind, humble, world-loosing, God-depending, benevolent...and in its doctrine, conduct and spirit, breathes nothing but peace and good will to all mankind...and has not, nor cannot, nor never did, nor is not, the author of that blood and persecution and suffering, which has filled the world under the color of religion. But those dreadful sufferings have in all countries originated with, and been carried on by priestcraft, whether pagan, heathen or christian....priestcraft has been the sole cause for wealth, and craft men in all countries and in all ages are justly chargeable with the sorrows of the nations, and the blood that has been shed about religion...and not the religion of Jesus Christ, in its precepts, spirit. or real followers...but by craft men, who borrow the garments of religion to hide, cover, and under which robe of innocency to perform all their cursed crafts and cruelty on the sons and daughters of men. Proof enough...witness the craft of Demetrius, raising the uproar in Ephesus; for the town clerk clears Paul and his companion of any charge...witness the craft of the soothsaying damsel, that brought her master much gain; it was that priestcraft that threw Paul and Silas into prison...witness the priestcraft of the pharisees, persecuting and killing Jesus Christ, of whom the judge on the trial said, I find no fault in this man....witness Paul with letters in his pocket from the chief priest making havoc, killing men and women...witness the pagan persecutions, coming from the pagan priest; read the letter of Governor Pliny of Bethina, to the Emperor...witness the craft of the priests of the Romish church...witness the priests in Paris, with crucifixes in their hands, stimulating the Roman Catholics to murder sixty thousand in a night....witness these crafty priests in Spain, building and filling the hellish Inquisition, those abodes of darkness and dungeons of human misery, with the victims of their wrath... witness these men of craft, for fear of the danger of their craft in England, imprisoning, burning, hanging, drowning, and banishing the innocent opposers of their craft; sparing neither age nor sex, but wreaking all their cruelty on them ...witness craft men before the revolution in America, stimulating and exciting the magistrates of New-England and Virginia to whip, imprison, fine and banish men and women for heresy, or because they would not conform or pay their money to craft men. Time would fail me to cite more evidences, for a thousand others from different ages and countries could be brought to prove that all these evils, and ten thousand times as much more, have originated with money-hunting and money-getting priests; they and they only were the sole cause of all law religion, blood, and cruel tyranny in the nations of the earth, and not the religion and world-loosing followers of Jesus Christ; for proof of which I have the scriptures and histories of nations to establish the facts. Then, my audience, if the schemes of the day is a craft of money-hunting and money-getting priests, I have put the glass to your face to see what all this will end in, unless you resist betimes and save the liberty of your country. For I tell you, as in the presence of my God, that the religion of Jesus Christ needs no law for its support, nor never had any, though craft men have called their religion by that name. And I tell you also, that craft men must and will, if it is to be had, have law on their side to support their craft...for all crafts are in danger where

free inquiry is granted. Therefore we hear the cry, our craft is in danger, we shall lose our wealth; therefore have these money-hunting craft men in all countries cried out, ye men of Israel help...help, king...help, emperor...help, governor...help, magistrate...help, legislators...help, Congress, our craft is in danger. And that moment any of these help, they put the dagger in hand to stab his brother, and establish priestcraft in the earth, and stand up against the Lord and his cause; and shut the door against the messengers of heaven, that bring the tidings of peace and good will towards men; and maintain on the labors of poor farmers and mechanics a set of blood hounds in the world.

Now my respectful and attentive fellow-citizens, I tell you that it is my candid opinion, that the independence and liberty of our country is in more danger at this time from priestcraft, than it has ever been since the revolution from all the nations of the earth, or any past or present source whatever...and I wish to remind you, that united we stand, divided we fall, a prey to the tyranny of kings or priests. Yea, if you suffer the priests by law to ride on your back, you will soon I assure you, have to carry a king behind him...for do you not know that our forefathers, before the revolution, had to wag along with both king and priest. And look at Spain, France, and England, wearing the chains of both these tyrants, for I tell you, that craft men and kings ride the same horse to poverty. And in order to save and perpetuate that most blessed and best inheritance of civil and religious liberty, left us by bleeding fathers, keep Congress to the text book of the Constitution, and the church of God to the letter of the New Testament; and when either is perverted to self-interest, and to mean any thing and every thing, to the interest of statesmen or priests, resist, as the people is the sovereign of the country. For if you lose sight of these polar stars, and do not often refer to first principles, we sink into the whirlpool of tyranny like other nations. Be jealous of your rights and liberty, while you have got them; for if lost it will be your own fault, and when gone perhaps gone forever. And if you should carelessly and negligently let scheming priests take them from you, you will deserve to be accursed by your dead fathers, and by future generations unborn. Oh, look abroad and behold all the nations of the earth in tyranny but ourselves; and oh, think how nigh liberty was, after the Declaration of Independence, banished from the earth...see only a little band of patriots, three thousand strong, whose bosoms were fanned with the heavenly flame of liberty or death, under the leading of the god-like Washington crossing the icy Delaware and marching up the hill of snowy Trenton to make now, as it were, the last struggle to plead her cause against oppressing tyrants...for this was the crisis of American independence...this victory gave fresh life to whigs, but to tories and priestcraft a lasting blow at the root. I call upon you, therefore, by the blood of the martyrs of liberty, by the tears of weeping orphans and widows, and by the blood-stained roads, fields, and decks of ships, and the groans of the wounded and dying heroes of our country, never, no never, no never to suffer a law religion of any kind, however foreign.

I leave you now, my audience, to compare, reflect, and improve on what I have said; praying that God, that manages the destinies of nations, to perpetuate the independence of our country, which was bought at so dear a rate.

See C208 L419p for character of author

Second Edition—Free Press—Tarboro'.